

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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R 180016Z JUN 75 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142527

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF RABBI ISRAEL MILLER
REF: STATE 140403
EYES ONLY FOR VELIOTES FROM ARMITAGE (EUR)

1. AS YOU MAY KNOW, ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT WHICH BY
LAW REQUIRES CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BY EARLY SEPTEMBER
(AND MUST BE REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEES BY MID-JULY)
IS ENCOUNTERING SOME OPPOSITION. KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
ARE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT IT IN ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE OF
IMPROVEMENT IN ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE ON EMIGRATION,
ESPECIALLY JEWISH EMIGRATION. PRESIDENT SUBMITTED WAIVER
REPORT AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 402 OF TRADE REFORM ACT BUT
EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIAN TO U.S. AND TO ISRAEL FELL OFF
MARKEDLY IN FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

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2. ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT NOW SEEMS TO HAVE BEGUN TO ACT,

AT LEAST TO EXTENT OF APPROVING SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PASSPORTS FOR EMIGRANTS TO BOTH DESTINATIONS. HOWEVER, THERE IS APPRECIABLE TIME LAG BETWEEN PASSPORT APPROVALS AND DELIVERY OF FINAL EXIT DOCUMENTATION AND ACTUAL DEPARTURE OF EMIGRANTS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE CONFIRMATION THAT PASSPORT APPROVALS ARE RISING,

THAT THE WORD IS BEING SPREAD THROUGH CIRCLES OF POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS THAT APPLICATIONS BEING RECEIVED AND PROCESSED AND THAT THERE IS SOME IMMEDIATE RISE IN RATE OF ACTUAL DEPARTURES. WITH THESE INDICATIONS LEADERSHIP OF JEWISH COMMUNITY AND CONGRESS COULD THEN, HOPEFULLY, TAKE POSITION THAT TRADE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE APPROVED NOW AND ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS COULD MONITOR ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE OVER NEXT NINE OR TEN MONTHS PRIOR TO TIME APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT MUST BE RENEWED.

3. POSITION TAKEN BY GOI AND BY RABBI ISRAEL MILLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS, WILL PROBABLY BE CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN RESOLUTION OF ISSUE ALONG ABOVE LINES. RABBI MILLER WILL BE CONSULTING WITH GOI (AND MAY DECIDE TO VISIT ROMANIA) IN PROCESS OF DETERMINING HIS POSITION. HE HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL WANT TO BE IN TOUCH WITH US. HE HAS HIS OWN CHANNELS BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD SEE HIM AND OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE HE MIGHT NEED, AS HIS INFORMATION WILL PROBABLY BE QUITE SENSITIVE. ALSO, WHEN YOU HAVE A READING FROM HIM, WE MAY WANT TO CONSIDER APPROACH TO GOI (ATHERTON OUTLINED TO GAZIT DESIRABILITY OF GOI TAKING POSITION PER PARA TWO DURING RABIN VISIT AND GAZIT INDICATED GOI WOULD BE REVIEWING POSSIBILITY OF DOING SO).

4. RABBI MILLER IS STAYING WITH HIS SON, DAVID MILLER, IN JERUSALEM. PHONE 02-28-11-93. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMIGRANTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE142527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JAARMITAGE:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850040-1723, N750001-0467
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750638/aaaabigx.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 140403
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF RABBI ISRAEL MILLER
TAGS: OTRA, ETRD, PINS, RO, US, IS, (MILLER, ISRAEL)
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006